

Shrewsbury Council on Aging 2022 Outreach Survey

Thanks again to all the residents who participated in the survey and all the volunteers who made getting out the survey and tallying the returns possible. We had about 1400 total respondents. We will be using the survey results to enhance or improve our outreach and services, and make people aware of Council on Aging and Senior Center resources and programs. Below are the questions and data collected from the answers. Not included is question 11, which solicited comments from respondents.

Survey Results:

1. Number of people living in a household over age 60.

This was to understand the number of people potentially vulnerable because they live alone. Of 1325 respondents the majority of households are:

- single person households living alone: 44% (588) or
- two person households: 49% (648)

2. Number of caregivers and who are you caring for.

Of 1265 respondents:

- 118 care for elders
- 76 care for grandchildren
- 37 care for children
- 8 care for both

3. Number of Veterans or spouses of Veterans: 390.

4. Those with pets and type of pet. 474 respondents have pets.

- 216 people have one or more cats
- 241 have one or more dogs
- 30 have both cat/s and dog/s
- 25 have birds
- 6 have chickens
- Other less common pets: rabbits, gerbils, fish, a horse, a gecko.

5. Transportation used:

- 78% (1,069) drive a car;
- 16% (101) rely on family/friends alone
- 97 do both
- One surprise is that just 4% of respondents use the Senior Van.

6. How often people get out of the house (grocery shopping, medical appointments, social, etc.).

We are trying to understand who may be living in social isolation. Good news is, of 1373 responses:

- 477 get out at least every day
- 487 at least 3 times per week
- 154 people only get out about 1 day per week.

7. Participation in fitness programs, groups, got assistance from COA staff, or used services of the Senior Center.

- For Services, of 403 responses: AARP tax aide 56%; Transportation 12%; the rest ranged from 2%-6%
- Fitness, of 239: Adult yoga 24%, Meditation 15%, SAIL 14%, Fit for Life 13%; the rest ranged from 2%-11%
- Groups, of 284: Mens group 21%, Friends of the Senior Center 20%, Current events 8%, followed by Mah Jong, Bridge and the rest
- Assistance from COA Staff, of 199: Outreach Coordinator 41%, Veteran's Agent 32%, Other Staff 45%.

8. Difficulty accessing activities at Senior Center: Out of over 1000 responses: only 5% reported difficulty.

9. How people receive news or consume entertainment: Out of 1321 responses, the overwhelming majority avail themselves of multiple sources divided relatively equal: Around 15%: internet, email, newspapers, TV, family/friends; radio 10%; library, magazines, and Senior Center 3%-5%.

10. How many receive the Senior Edition newsletter: of 799 responses, 77 receive the newsletter, 539 respondents would like to receive the newsletter.

